



Concerns Regarding the Use of Topsoil in Gravel Pit Reclamation

TOPSOIL FACTS

A one inch depth of topsoil spread over one acre equals 134 cubic yards.

A four inch depth of topsoil spread over an acre equals 536 cubic yards.

It takes 35.7 dump truck loads (15 cubic yards per load) to haul four acre inches of topsoil to a site.

A ten acre site (4 inch depth) requires 357 truck loads of topsoil.

Four inches of topsoil spread on a site that is one acre in size costs about \$8400.

536 yds ³ at \$12/yd ³	=	\$6432
Trucking at \$3/yd ³	=	\$1608
Spreading at \$0.75/yd ³	=	\$ 402
Total cost per acre	=	\$ 8442

A ten acre site costs about \$84,000 to topsoil to a four inch depth.

Topsoil is not needed on most gravel pit surfaces in order to establish warm season grasses. It is needed where cobbles or clean gravel are exposed.

(over)

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

Concerns for communities requiring a four inch topsoil layer as a condition for vegetating gravel pit surfaces may be:

1. What will the impact of this trucking have on community roads?
2. Will the community need to address safety, noise, and other management concerns due to traffic of trucks?
3. Is the community justified and reasonable in setting a condition that topsoil may need to be stripped from an area to topsoil a gravel pit surface?
4. What will happen to fields where topsoil is removed?
5. Is topsoil or a topsoil substitute necessary to establish a satisfactory vegetative cover on a gravel pit surface?

(In New Hampshire topsoil is naturally occurring earthen material located in the upper few inches of the earth's surface).

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